Mount Zion

Woman's Missionary Union

HISTORY

1906-1956

Verna Cates Stackhouse

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Written by

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FOREWORD

This is the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Mt. Zion Association, the fiftieth year of our Woman's Missionary Work which represents the prayers, the efforts, the gifts of our women and young people since they caught a heaven-sent vision of the world's need for Christ and His message. As believers in the New Testament, we have striven to be obedient to that vision, realizing the ability of God to supply that deep need.

As we review the achievements of half a century, we give thanks to God who has led us and blessed us so abundantly. Behind our accomplishments and endeavors are the lives of countless women who have invested time, talents, means and personalities to the end that the story of God's love might be shared with others. No service done in His name has been useless; no word spoken in His behalf has been wasted. God does not count figures as we do, but He rewards His co-laborers according to their prayers, their Christ-like spirit and their sincerity of heart in following in the Master's footsteps.

Today we rejoice as we look backward, renew our faith as we look forward. Our fifty golden years reveal a record of what God has wrought—not we—for we have endeavored as women and young people to let the Master use us and our talents as instruments of service in the great mission here.

We express our gratitude to Mrs. George N. Harward, former Superintendent, and to Mrs. Cecil Johnson, Associational Historian, for their services in contributing research material to this history. We acknowledge our appreciation to Mrs. E. C. Wilkie and Mrs. Harry Puckett for their assistance in condensing the historical material.

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THE YEAR 1870 marked the organizational meeting of the Mt. Zion Association at the old Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Durham County. At this time the women were not allowed to express conviction or to take any active part in the work of the church. Yet when men gathered for meetings or conventions, along came the women too. They came under the influence of the speakers of the day and caught something of the missionary enthusiasm. As a result the women instituted Female Cent Societies and Mite Societies to support missions at home and abroad.

We can imagine the wrath of the brethren when they heard that in 1877, 17 new societies had been formed in the state by the women and that their contributions amounted to $342.16. How the men resented and must have stormed, but women's deep yearning to give the Savior to the waiting world was not to be silenced. The men were concerned that women were taking such an active part in church affairs, and they had gone so far as to change the wording referring to delegates in the constitution to read "brethren" instead of "member." This, they felt sure would exclude the women from added activity. It remained this way until 1921 when the wording was changed back to "member," for by this time a great progress had been noted.

These were the lean years of the South and women had very little money they could call their own, but their husbands were willing to allow them to have the money from the sale of butter and eggs or any funds derived from the sale of farm produce. The women were delighted to contribute such as they had, and their offering found its way into the channels of the Foreign Mission Board.

Years before in 1845-46 God had blessed Mt. Pisgah Church in Chatham County when He spoke to one of its members, young Matthew Yates, and laid on his heart the heathen of the world. In a grove near the church he chose his prayer tree

where he drew aside and spent hours talking and meditating with God while the Holy Spirit sealed his heart and life for Christian service. The call came clearly, and it was imperative that he answer the cry. There in the interest of missions, his mother and the other farm women of the community came together at the church and prayed that God's love would be known abroad and that they could be more helpful in getting the gospel to unreached millions. So in Mt. Pisgah Church the first missionary society in the Mt. Zion Association was organized in 1884. From this church young Matthew T. Yates and his bride, Eliza Moring Yates, dedicated themselves to the Master's service and had gone out to China in 1847.

The seed for the love of missions had been planted, and shortly afterward in 1887 the first Sunbeam Band in the Mt. Zion Association was organized in the Chapel Hill Church under the leadership of Dr. George Braxton Taylor, pastor of the church. He had caught a vision of the young people's responsibility and the importance of training youthful hearts toward missions. There he gathered the children about him, explaining to them the mission of Christ, and under his leadership they showed enthusiasm for becoming "sunbeams."

In 1891 at the first annual state W. M. U. meeting, held in Goldsboro, Mrs. Thomas Hume of Chapel Hill was appointed "key woman" by the Central Committee of North Carolina. Her duties were visiting and encouraging societies and organizing new societies. She served as "key woman" for two years.

Our first magazine for missions was called "Missionary Talks" and about this time, 1902, the societies began to send in reports to the vice-president. The minutes for this year reported a letter of encouragement to our women from Miss Fannie Heck, president of the Central Committee of North Carolina.

The seed was planted, and Woman's Missionary Societies began springing up about the country. When the men met on October 6, 1905 in Swepsonville Baptist Church, the ladies

met separately for the first time as they came together in the Swepsonville Methodist Church. Mrs. C. L. Haywood, the vice-president, conducted the devotional service. Miss Bertha Yates was secretary.

Since women were not allowed to speak out in the churches, the first report of women's work to the Association was made by Rev. C. J. Thompson of Durham. In the afternoon the ladies were addressed by Mr. Wilderman of Chapel Hill on "Woman's Work," and they later formed a chain of prayer in the interest of missions. At this meeting it was reported that twenty-three societies and nine Sunbeam Bands were in existence, with $1,383.67 contributed for the year. A timely motto chosen at this meeting must have added zest to the longing of women to "publish glad tidings" when they resolved "A missionary society in every church and every woman a member of a society." The women resolved to combine their efforts and organize into a Missionary Union at this time. The actual organizational meeting of the Mt. Zion W. M. U. took place in October 1906 at Bethel Church in Orange County. The General Association was in session at this time in the Church House; so the women gathered in the log school house across the road from the church. Mrs. C. L. Haywood presided, with Miss Bertha Yates as secretary. Already there were twenty-three missionary societies, with some Y. W. A.'s, Sunbeam Bands and R. A. chapters organized. Mrs. Haywood was elected to serve another year as a state vice-president. The next year while the General Association was in session at Olive's Chapel, the women met in the Academy nearby for their first separate annual meeting October 19, 1907. Mrs. Haywood was ill, and Mrs. J. C. Thompson of Durham presided. Mrs. Hight C. Moore, wife of the pastor at Chapel Hill, brought the inspirational message. Plans were made for Enlistment Day, State Mission Day, and Study Courses in local churches.

October 7, 1908 found members of the association meeting in Burlington. The women met in the Methodist Church while the General Association was in the First Baptist. Mrs. C. L.

Haywood presided and Mrs. Ada Council of Mt. Pisgah was secretary. The group was challenged to reach 1,000 women and young people before the next meeting. Mt. Zion led the state in gifts, with $2,563.86 reported.

An important decision was made at the next meeting on October 5, 1909. It was decided to change the time of meeting from the General Associational date, due to the inconvenience of finding two separate meeting places at the same time. This year was the first time minutes and statistical tables were printed in the minutes of the Association.

In 1910 the W. M. U. met with Edgemont Baptist Church in Durham on October 11. Women spent the night in nearby homes because there was a morning, afternoon, and night session. Gifts increased with more than $3,000.00 reported. Berea and Red Mountain in Durham County were the churches where the W. M. U. met in 1911 and 1912. The work continued to grow and the women were beginning to report to Mrs. Haywood as well as to Miss Elizabeth Briggs, the state secretary.

On October 7, 1913 the women met at the Methodist Church building in Mebane, with Mrs. Haywood, superintendent presiding, and Miss Margaret Duncan serving as secretary. Sixteen Sunbeams from Mebane, led by Miss Mattie S. Johnson, gave a program of songs and recitations about the Sunbeam activity. Personal service was emphasized as the keynote of the meeting. The presence of Miss Blanche Barrus, corresponding secretary of North Carolina, added much to the meeting as she reported on the Jubilate meeting in St. Louis that marked the 25th anniversary of organized Woman's work in the South. At this meeting Mrs. Haywood listed the following statistics in her report. There were 27 W. M. S. groups, 19 Sunbeam Bands, 10 Y. W. A groups, and 2 Junior Y. W. A. groups.

W. M. U. members met on October 6, 1914 in the West Durham Church, Mrs. Haywood presiding and Mrs. J. J. Hart serving as secretary. Mrs. Hart also conducted the devotions, and a message about the work over our state was delivered by

Mrs. W. S. Jones, state treasurer. At this meeting the state president, Miss Heck, was reported to be seriously ill in a Richmond hospital, and a message of love and sympathy was sent to her.

On September 8, 1915, the women met in East Durham Church in a session highlighted by a special emphasis on reports as well as missionary speakers. Miss Elizabeth Briggs, state Sunbeam leader, was present, as well as the returned missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Herring who were on furlough from China. It was at this meeting that the first reports from the mission study classes were given, and an increase in the use of periodicals and mission study books was noted.

In 1916 the annual meeting was held September 19 with the North Durham Church. Mrs. Haywood was given the title of "Associational Superintendent," changing from vice-president. A "Missionary Library" was given by the Society of the First Church of Durham, designated for use throughout the entire Association. The gift was presented by Mrs. Haywood and accepted in behalf of the women by Mrs. Martin W. Buck. Mrs. Wesley Jones spoke to the group on W. M. U. work throughout North Carolina. Mrs. Buck was elected associate superintendent.

The Yates Church, Durham, was the meeting place for the women in 1917, Mrs. Haywood presiding. The topic of Mrs. Haywood's address was "Woman's Place in the Work of the Master." At the roll call of delegates, 20 societies were represented. Miss Elizabeth Briggs of Raleigh made a talk on "The Possibilities of our Sunbeams." It was recorded in the facts about the day's meeting that the group "moved, seconded and carried that the gentlemen who were standing in the yard be invited into the church during the afternoon session."

The women met on September 10, 1918 at Temple Church in Durham, Mrs. Haywood presiding. The most notable achieve-

ment of the past year was the establishment of two $500 memorials for scholarships for W. M. U. Training School, one by the women of the West Durham to Mrs. T. C. Poe and one by the women and Y. W. A.'s of the First Church, Durham, to Miss Amanda Cheek. Miss Bertha Carroll from Raleigh inspired the women to greater endeavors with her talk entitled "Look on the Fields." In the afternoon Mrs. C. T. Willingham, returned missionary from Japan, talked to the ladies about the customs and missions of Japan. The number of societies in the Mt. Zion Association had now grown to thirty.

On October 5, 1920 at Olive's Chapel, Mrs. C. C. Smith, our Y. W. A. leader presided and gave encouraging reports of the work. The statistical report for the year's work included: 50 churches in the Association with 45 having missionary societies, one-fifth of all Seventy-Five Million campaign funds came from W. M. U., and two young women, Miss Grace Olive of Olive's Chapel and Miss Victoria Ferguson, Temple Church in Durham, were reported to be training for Christian service at the W. M. U. Training School. Also Miss Cora Lee Cannon of West Durham was enrolled at Buies Creek.

September 6, 1921 the W. M. U. met in Chapel Hill Church with Mrs. Haywood presiding. The main speaker of the day was Mrs. Wade D. Bostick, returned missionary from China. Under the supervision of Mrs. Haywood the Association was divided into districts and a woman appointed in each district to assist in the activities of the 75-Million Campaign. The report of the Committee on Resolutions drew up and read resolutions of respect: "Whereas, Mrs. C. L. Haywood has served the W. M. U. of Mt. Zion Association as superintendent for the past fifteen years, and has severed her connections as superintendent. . . for her personal character, missionary zeal, administrative ability, we express our hearty appreciation and sincere love. To her successor, Mrs. W. M. Buck, we pledge our loyal support, cooperation and earnest prayers." The nomination committee reported, in regard to Mrs. Haywood's resignation, "We deem it a privilege to lighten her burden, but still

retain her wise counsel and valued experience as a member of the executive committee. So after prayerful consideration, your committee suggests an entire change of officers as follows: Superintendent, Mrs. W. M. Buck; associate superintendent, Mrs. W. J. Crain; Y. W. A., and G. A. leader, Mrs. Walter M. Williams; Sunbeam and R. A. Leader, Mrs. E. L. Baskins; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. A. L. Bassett; executive committee, Mrs. C. L. Haywood, Mrs. E. Walton, Mrs. A. C. Andrews. For the first time in the association minutes, summer help in the churches was reported and a training school girl rendered valuable service to the rural churches.

The W. M. U. met at the Yates Church on September 12, 1922, with the new superintendent, Mrs. W. M. Buck presiding. Gifts for the Seventy-Five Million Campaign were being received at this time. Two important steps were taken by the ladies when they voted to furnish a room in the Baptist Hospital at Winston-Salem at a cost of $200 and to establish the first Mt. Zion Association Scholarship at the W. M. U. Training School. During the year the funds contributed for the hospital room exceeded the goal and a 2-bed ward was furnished at the cost of $370.

Six young women from our Association were preparing for Christian service: Annie Crutchfield, Cora Lee Cannon, Lula McGee, Dona Watson, Nettie Page, and Alva Lawrence. An all-day conference was conducted by our Auxiliary leaders, Mrs. W. M. Williams and Mrs. E. L. Baskin at Temple Baptist Church on June 27 with 89 young people attending.

September 11, 1923 found our women again meeting in the Burlington First Church, the home of the superintendent, Mrs. Buck. The first Mt. Zion scholarship to the W. M. U. Training School was awarded to Miss Mozelle Breeze of Durham's Temple Church. For the first time banners were also given for excelling in various phases of the work, these to be kept for one year, but to be retained permanently if won for three years. This year the banner for mission study was awarded to the First Baptist Church in Burlington, as well as for the Sunbeam

and G. A. work. The East Durham Church won for the best general R. A. activity, while the banner for the best Y. W. A. work went to Temple Church in Durham. The church at Chapel Hill was awarded a banner for the best general W. M. U. report. An encouraging report was given to the group including the fact that nine new societies had been organized during the year. Amount reported given to Seventy-Five Million Fund was $21,888.59. The W. M. U. of the Mt. Zion Association was awarded the banner for the state work at the annual state meeting held in Durham.

September 16, 1924 the women gathered at Edgemont Church with records of our harvest for the Master. Six girls from the W. M. U. Training School were there, and Miss Nellie Page spoke. Miss Dorothy Kellam, state leader for Young People's Work, spoke on "The Way, and the How, and the Why" of the work among young people. Also making an initial visit to the association was the "Sunbonnet Baby," giving evidence of growth from the missions seed planted many years before. (The "Sunbonnet Baby" was a rag doll representing the various phases of Sunbeam endeavors.) A trend of growth was noted in the report which disclosed four A-1 societies in the Association—Burlington First, Temple, East Durham and Hocutt Memorial. At this meeting a new superintendent, Mrs. Samuel J. Porter of Durham was elected.

The W. M. U. assembled on September 8, 1925 at Temple Church in Durham. Mrs. S. J. Porter, after serving only six months of her term as superintendent, had moved to Washington D. C. The associate superintendent was ill, so Mrs. J. M. Cheek of Durham, who had been elected by the Executive Committee as our new superintendent, gave a brief report of the year's achievements. A goal was set for the coming year to raise $950 for the Blanch Barrus Home for nurses at the Baptist Hospital at Winston-Salem. It was announced that Miss Nellie Page of Cedar Fork was currently using the scholarship at the W. M. U. Training School. The Y. W. A. of the Temple Church won the banner for three consecutive years, thereby

being allowed to retain it permanently.

Twenty churches from the Association were represented when the W. M. U. met on September 12, 1926 at the Antioch Church in Orange County, with Mrs. J. M. Cheek presiding. The newly organized societies brought a note of progress as it was learned there were one W. M. S., 2 Sunbeam groups, 2 R. A. Bands and 3 G. A. groups. The women realized at this time a need for an associational field worker to visit the weaker churches and support them by her work. Our people were saddened because of the death of Mrs. Buck, in whose memory a beautiful memorial service was conducted by Mrs. John Vernon, Sr., of Burlington. A special musical tribute was sung by Mrs. Homer Andrews of Burlington.

On August 30, 1927 the W. M. U. met with Mt. Gilead Church in Chatham County. Mrs. J. M. Cheek, superintendent presided. The seeds that had been sown had borne fruit, with 14 new societies reported for the year. Some of the aims had not been realized, but the women were encouraged over the good reports on Personal Service, especially from the rural churches. Mission study under the efficient direction of Mrs. Whitted was reported to have progressed by "leaps and bounds." However, the greatest accomplishment of the year was the first associational camp for young people held at Camp Hollow Rock with Miss Dorothy Kellam, state worker, and Miss Cora Lee Cannon, mission volunteer serving as the leaders. Plans were laid to celebrate the Ruby Anniversary of the Southern Baptist W. M. U. in 1928, which was our 40th anniversary.

1928 was the Ruby Anniversary of the Southern W. M. U., with the watchword "Enlarge — Spare Not — Lengthen — Strengthen." Twenty-two churches were represented when the women met in August 1928 at the Grace Church in Durham. Mrs. J. M. Cheek, superintendent presided. Mrs. Pope gave an informative report on the Ruby Anniversary Campaign. Mt. Zion W. M. U. ranked third in the state in gifts to the Cooperative Program, and three of the nine W. M. U. societies

in the state receiving the purple banner for A-1 work came from our association—First Baptist, Watts Street and Grace from Durham. Also the Young People's banner for the state went to the Mt. Zion Association. Miss Ruby Barker, a former resident of Durham, was receiving the W. M. U. scholarship at the Training School at this time. Some recommendations of the executive board were: (1) Discontinue the Associational Training School scholarship fund and send all contributions for the Training School to the State treasurer; (2) Keep honor roll of societies but no banners to be "kept"; (3) Consider minutes in book separate from regular associational minutes.

In 1929 the churches as well as business concerns were under the shadow of the depression that hovered over them, but the women met on August 29, at Olive's Chapel Church with Mrs. J. L. Gates presiding. All those present were encouraged to launch out in greater efforts for efficiency when it was announced that there were 27 A-1 organizations in the Association and 28 new societies had been organized through the efforts of the Ruby Anniversary chairman. In the afternoon a complete history of the W. M. U. work in the Mt. Zion Association was read by its author, Mrs. C. L. Haywood, who compiled the material with the assistance of Miss Sallie Rigsbee, historian.

The annual meeting of the W. M. U. opened at 10 o'clock Thursday, August 28, 1930 in the Mebane Church, with Mrs. J. L. Gates presiding. The missionary speaker of the day was Miss Pearl Johnson who addressed the group on her experiences in China. The outstanding progress of the year was noted in the increase of Mission Study under direction of Mrs. Clyde Johnson of Durham. Mt. Zion led the entire state in standard societies. The Association also ranked third in gifts and led the state in mission study awards (1808).

Bethesda Church was the scene of the 25th annual meeting on Thursday, August 27, 1931. Mrs. J. L. Gates, superintendent presided as the morning session opened. Three hundred delegates and visitors were present. It was very encouraging to learn that Mt. Zion led the state at this time with the largest

percent of A-1 societies registered, as well as ranking third in gifts, in spite of the depression. At this meeting the state superintendent, Mrs. W. N. Jones, along with Mrs. D. W. Herring and Mrs. J. S. Farmer were present.

Mrs. D. C. Barbee, superintendent presided as the 26th annual meeting opened Thursday morning, August 25, 1932, in Hillsboro's First Baptist Church, with 255 delegates and visitors registering. This year the Association sponsored two Rally Days, hoping to reach a greater number of people, and for the first time in the history a Stewardship Declamation Contest was held, with 55 young people participating. Winners announced were: Katherine Martin, Temple; Martha Whitworth, West Durham; Julia Lloyd, Burlington First; Louis Jennings, Edgemont; and Ruth Pendergraph, Temple. This year also marked the division of the Association into five groups, with a leader selected for each group who was to be responsible for reporting for all churches in her group. The aim was to increase activities of the societies by a closer, personal touch. Mt. Zion continued to lead the state with 27 A-1 societies, and at the same time ranking third in gifts.

Mrs. D. C. Barbee, superintendent, presided when the 27th annual meeting of the Mt. Zion W. M. U. was called on Thursday, August 31, 1933 at the Rose of Sharon Baptist Church. Rev. C. V. Teel presented an inspiring devotion to the 200 delegates and visitors. The address of Mrs. Wesley N. Jones was the outstanding feature of the program. Mrs. D. C. Markham, Young People's Leader, reported that the young people of the Association were rallying nobly to the call of service and had manifested great enthusiasm along the lines of mission study and giving. Miss Alva Lawrence, State Young People's Leader, was present at the Associational Young People's Rallies. Miss Lawrence was from Durham and had been the recipient of the Associational Scholarship. Mrs. Taul B. White, Mission Study Chairman, said in her report to the women: "Christ's task was to bring the lost world back to God, to rebuild society, to establish a civilization of good will and to found a brotherhood.

To accomplish this without study is unthinkable. Mission study, therefore, is one of the biggest and most comprehensive studies in the world."

Hocutt Memorial Church in Burlington was the scene of the 28th annual meeting of the W. M. U. as 225 delegates and visitors came together on Thursday, August 30, 1934. Mrs. D. C. Markham, acting superintendent, presided in the absence of Mrs. Jones, the elected superintendent. The message brought by Mrs. Edna R. Harris was an outstanding feature of the day's program. An increase of $1,782 in gifts was noted, and Mrs. Jones was credited with perfecting the group plan. The leaders chosen for the six groups were: Mrs. L. D. Hamlin, Mrs. J. H. Shipp, Mrs. W. P. McDade, Mrs. G. P. Cole, Mrs. G. N. Harward, and Miss Elsie Denny. Especially good work was done during the past year by the following Junior societies: Durham First, G. A., R. A., and Sunbeams; Angier Avenue, Y. W. A., G. A., and Sunbeams; Grace Church, R. A., and Sunbeams; Burlington First, G. A.; Mebane, Y. W. A.; and Hocutt Memorial, Sunbeams. At the close of the afternoon session Mrs. H. T. Warren conducted a memorial service for our deceased members, after which Mrs. C. M. Euliss of Hocutt Memorial, sang.

The annual meeting of the Mt. Zion W. M. U. was held at Bethel Church, Chapel Hill, June 18, 1935, with a registration of more than 350 persons. Mrs. Ira D. Knight, superintendent presided with Mrs. George N. Harward conducting a challenging devotional. Mrs. Jones, the elected superintendent was forced to resign due to ill health, and Mrs. W. C. Markham served until August, at which time the present superintendent was elected. In her report Mrs. Knight announced that there were more organizations than ever before, a total of 52 W. M. S. and 90 Young People's organizations. The state president, Mrs. Wesley N. Jones, made the main address of the morning, and in the afternoon the women were privileged to have as our speaker, Mrs. J. B. Hipps of the University of Shanghai, China.

On Tuesday, June 16, 1936, 249 delegates and visitors registered for the 30th annual W. M. U. meeting at Mt. Pisgah

Church in Chatham County, with Mrs. Ira D. Knight presiding. This was a great day of rejoicing and thanksgiving as the women recalled the fact that from this same church Matthew T. Yates answered the call of missions 90 years ago and went out to carry the gospel to hungering thousands in China. On this day, according to our superintendent, God revealed to the women in flesh and blood the power of His grace as Mrs. F. Y. O. Ling, corresponding secretary of the W. M. U. in China, stood before the group and delivered the main address. Her father was pastor of the old North Gate Church in China, the church to which our own Matthew T. Yates ministered. Other notable visitors were Mrs. J. Clyde Turner, president of the W. M. U. of North Carolina, and Mrs. W. N. Jones, past president of North Carolina W. M. U.

The 31st annual meeting of our W. M. U. was held Tuesday June 15, 1937, in the Cedar Grove Baptist Church, with Lowe's Grove as joint hostess. Mrs. O. L. Riggs, superintendent, presided and Mrs. J. M. Cheek led the devotional period. Mrs. J. Clyde Turner, State President, brought a challenging message to the 275 delegates and visitors. A mark of distinction came to the Mt. Zion Association when Miss Dorothy Ellis of Lowe's Grove, a member of the Y. W. A., won the state stewardship declamation contest held in Charlotte. The Association also led the Division in the greatest number of A-1 societies, with 48 attaining this goal.

The 32nd annual meeting of the Mt. Zion W. M. U. convened on Tuesday, June 14, 1938, in the Mt. Carmel Church with Mrs. O. L. Riggs presiding. For the first time in our history, every society in the Mt. Zion Association had delegates present to hear with a deep sense of pride the yearly statistics. Ephesus, Hillsboro First, and Watts Street Churches reported every member of their societies giving to missions. Mt. Zion led the state with 38 "Margarets" and ranked second with 50 A-1 societies. Talks suggestive of the Southwide Golden Anniversary were given by Mrs. J. T. Craig, Mrs. A. C. Howell, Mrs. G. E. Isaacs, and Mrs. E. Clyde Johnson. Mrs. J. S. Farmer, State

Golden Jubilee Chairman, gave the inspirational address of the day, and in the afternoon talks were continued by Mrs. R. B. Wilkins and Mrs. A. D. Kinnett.

Two hundred seventy-five delegates and visitors were present for the July 13th meeting when the Mt. Zion W.M.U. convened at Graham Baptist Church in 1939. Mrs. Charles Jolly was the presiding officer. The women were delighted to have Mr. Honono Espinoza, native of South America, as the morning speaker. He gave vivid accounts of the need for Christ in our fields in Chile. It was with grateful hearts to God for His goodness and constant power that the delegates learned W. M. S. had for the past year been 100 percent in doing Personal Service and three-fourths of the youth organizations had conducted some service in their community. Mt. Zion ranked second in North Carolina in the number of tithers and second in gifts. Special mention was made of the 170 mission study classes held with 3341 in attendance and that our Association held first place in this endeavor.

The 34th annual session of the Mt. Zion W. M. U. met June 6, 1940 with the Yates Baptist Church. Mrs. Jollay was the presiding officer and Mrs. J. Winston Pearce led the devotional period. Dr. Roland T. Leavell brought a stirring message to the group as he presented an address on the theme, "The Romance of Evangelism." In the afternoon session Rev. E. Norfleet Gardner spoke on "Building Royal Ambassadors on a Firm Foundation." Beginning with this year, our state was divided into 10 divisions, with Mt. Zion placed in the Raleigh Division and our own Mrs. W. R. Stone elected as superintendent. During the past year the Association led the state with 48 A-1 societies, and the Mission Study Classes had an enrollment of 2,373. Gifts reached a total of $22,131.59. It was good to note that the women in the Watts Street Church, Durham, were 100 percent in giving to missions.

Antioch Baptist Church was host for the 35th annual session of the W. M. U. on Wednesday, June 18, 1941, with Mrs. John T. Craig, superintendent presiding. The theme for the

entire program was "That His Salvation May Be Known Among All Nations," and a fitting devotion was given by Mrs. A. S. Gillespie, Kaefing, China, a native of Stovall, North Carolina. The inspirational message of the morning was brought by Mrs. Frank Lide, Hwangshein, China, returned missionary. The study of missions was an open book to 34 churches in our Association during 1940, with a total of 4,423 people engaged in the study of missions and 922 awards given. We had more stewardship awards than in any previous year. Several new endeavors were undertaken relating to the work among the young people of Mt. Zion Association. First, there was a conference for Counselors and Leaders held at the Temple Church, Durham; second, an Associational Y. W. A. Council was organized in March at Grace Church, Durham. Miss Ruby Norton of West Durham served as president of the Council.

Mrs. John Craig was again piloting the W. M. U. when the women met with Edgemont Church on Tuesday, June 16, 1942, for the 36th annual session. The delegates' faith became deeper as they heard a mission program built upon the theme, "Keep The Lights Burning in Mt. Zion." Miss Catherine Markham conducted the period for "Keeping the Lights Burning in Mt. Zion Through"—Mission Study, Mrs. C. C. Cox; Personal Service, Mrs. E. Clyde Johnson; Stewardship, Mrs. F. M. Jenkins; Through our group leaders as Torch Bearers; Through the Hundred Thousand Club by Mrs. George N. Harward. Rev. W. W. Enete, home from the mission fields in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, delivered the inspirational address based on "Lights In Far Away Places." Mrs. J. M. Whitted, former superintendent of our Association, was honored at this meeting. Fifty-four W. M. S. societies reported 801 tithers and a total of gifts reaching beyond $21,000. Because of gasoline shortages, group meetings were suspended for the coming year.

Twenty churches were represented at the 37th annual session of the Mt. Zion W. M. U. held Tuesday, June 15, 1943, at the Mebane Baptist Church. Mrs. John Craig, superintendent, presided over the program which had as its theme, "Making

Christ Pre-eminent in Mt. Zion.'' Mrs. J. S. Farmer, State president, spoke on Community Missions, and Mrs. George N. Harward emphasized the importance of ''Making Christ Pre-eminent Through Stewardship.'' From the statistical reports it appeared that lack of transportation had kept our meetings from having large crowds. A report showed that we had 1,041 tithers in our Association and that 77 Mission Study classes were held for the W. M. U. with 1,537 attending.

Our 38th annual session of the W. M. U. found the women meeting with the First Baptist Church in Burlington on Tuesday, April 25, 1944, with Mrs. George N. Harward as superintendent. ''Today's Achievements, An Incentive For Tomorrow'' was the theme upon which the program was planned. The devotional period of the morning was led by Mrs. J. R. Poindexter, assisted by Mrs. P. Y. Greene, Mrs. T. C. Williams, Mrs. D. T. Phillips, Mrs. Thruston Cates, Mrs. A. D. Kinnett and Miss Ruth Patterson, soloist. ''Today Molds Tomorrow'' was the message brought by Mrs. J. Clyde Turner. Thirty-four churches were represented with a total registration of 165 persons. Dark were these war days, but the superintendent endeavored to bring encouragement in her report to the women. Mrs. Harward reported that of 64 churches in the Association, 55 had Mission organizations and that Watts Street was the only church with an A-1 union. The gifts to all causes totaled $30,600, but of this amount $4,412.38 was given by the young people through their organizations. Mrs. Wingate Jones, capable Young People's Leader, inspired the women to greater things for the Master as she challenged them to enlarge the plans for young people's work, to mold Christ-like attitudes, to teach missions, and to guide in Christian stewardship and service.

The 39th annual session of the Mt. Zion W. M. U. opened at 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning, April 24, 1945, in West Durham Baptist Church, Mrs. George N. Harward presided. A large lighted cross was used effectively in the background for the program entitled ''Lead On, O King Eternal.'' The W. M. U.

was commended in a telegram from the moderator, Rev. Das Kelley Barnett, for its contribution to the spiritual life of the Association. 38 churches were represented by 144 persons. The program was divided into individual talks and meditations suggestive of the theme. The speakers were: Mrs. Owen F. Herring, Durham, Mrs. E. T. Dallas, Chapel Hill, Mrs. J. S. Farmer, Raleigh, Mrs. L. E. Blackman, Hawaii (our newest field), Mrs. W. W. Abernathy, Hillsboro, Mrs. Wingate Jones, Durham, Rev. John Knight, Durham. The superintendent announced that Edgemont and Watts Street Churches had full graded Unions and our total gifts to all causes amounted to $33,163.73. Two new societies were organized.

Delegates gathered for the 40th annual session of Mt. Zion W. M. U. on Tuesday, April 16, 1946, in the First Baptist Church in Chapel Hill. Mrs. George N. Harward, superintendent, presided and the program of the day was based on the theme, "Christ For The World." 30 churches and 31 different auxiliaries were represented in the attendance of 180 persons. Reports for the year were presented in the form of talks by Mrs. E. D. Row, Temple, Mrs. E. S. Britt, Bethesda, Mrs. C. T. Poe, West Durham. Mrs. J. S. Farmer, our State president, expressed the vital need for our giving Christ to the world as she spoke on "The Urgency of Making Him Known." Miss Florence Lide, returned missionary from China, brought an encouraging address entitled "The World For Christ," which challenged our women to launch out in "deeper waters" for the Master. During the afternoon session Miss Lula Mae Teague of the First Baptist in Burlington led the Young People's Hour, and Mrs. D. K. Barnett talked on the far-flung scope of "World-Wide Service." A W. M. U. pin was presented to Mrs. Harward in appreciation for her time and talents given to the woman's work.

The Mt. Zion W. M. U. met April 30, 1947 in Temple Baptist Church with Mrs. George N. Harward presiding. 44 churches and 75 organizations were represented. The theme for the entire program was "Jesus Calls Us." The inspirational address of the day was given by Miss Vivian Nowell (Wendell),

returned missionary from our fields in Africa. Mrs. Clarence T. Poe, in her Stewardship report, used a huge poster to represent the Bible as she illustrated the "Word of God" as a garden, showing God's ownership and man's stewardship. Miss Geneva Jo White, a student enrolled at Meredith College, talked on the Margaret Fund and gave interesting highlights of her experiences as an "M. K." (Missionary Kid). It was inspiring to learn that the Association led the state in gifts totaling $55,805.66. At this time one Margaret Fund student was studying in the Association—Robert Lide at the University of North Carolina, and at the W. M. U. Training School was Miss Rachel Thompson of Durham.

The high point in Mrs. Harward's administration of seven years as superintendent came this year, the last time the W. M. U. met together before the division of our Association. Our W. M. U. of the Mt. Zion Association met April 28, 1948 in Carrboro Church, with the theme for the program being "For Ye Serve The Lord Christ." Miss Ruth Province of Raleigh, State secretary, spoke on the program theme, and Miss Pearl Todd, returned missionary from China, delivered a challenging address, "Serving the Lord Christ in China." A recommendation was made and accepted that if the Mt. Zion Association be divided in October as planned that the W. M. U. remain as a unit until the close of 1948. For the second consecutive summer the Junior R. A. and G. A camps were held at Crabtree Creek Park. A Y. W. A. Week-end Retreat was conducted for the first time and 19 girls attended. Our Association led the state in gifts to all causes. Our women shared a great joy in assisting the Margaret Fund and Training School students. Two from our Association were studying at Southwestern—Miss Annie Pearl Hughes, Burlington, and Miss Melba Long, Durham; two of the three North Carolina students enrolled at New Orleans were from the Mt. Zion Association—Miss Louise Crawford and Flora Lloyde of Hillsboro. Later in the year on December 5, 1948 a special meeting was called in the Mebane First Baptist Church where plans were made for two Associations, the newly formed one to be called "Yates" and

to be comprised of 34 churches in Durham County. This left 38 churches in the "parent" group. The Leadership Conference on January 11, 1949 in Mebane was presided over by Mrs. Harward who was retained as superintendent of the Mt. Zion Association.

Mt. Adar near Mebane was hostess church when the Mt. Zion W. M. U. held its 43rd annual session on April 29, 1949, with Mrs. Harward presiding. A challenging program built on the theme "That The World May Know" was presented. The main speakers of the morning session were Miss Hilda Mayo, State Young People's Leader, who addressed the group on "The Urgency of Making Him Known," and Miss Minnie Berry, consecrated Home Missionary among our mountain people, spoke on "That the World May Know." In the afternoon Mrs. J. V. Marsh of Hocutt Memorial and Mrs. Troy E. Jones of Carrboro emphasized the necessity of our continued endeavors with the youth organizations. In her report Mrs. Harward captured the urgency of our sending forth the word of God to the world as she said, "Unless the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Christ, the kingdoms of the world will perish, and mankind will go down to destruction as its self-made civilization crumbles for lack of spiritual foundation."

The 1950 session of the W. M. U. was with the Hocutt Memorial Church in Burlington on April 11, 1950. This half-century mark found W. M. U. making several changes and many "new" beginnings, with Miss Annie Strowd of Orange County serving as superintendent. For a year Mrs. Harward, past superintendent, served as Miss Strowd's associate. "Abounding in the Work of the Lord" was chosen as the theme for the meeting, and Mrs. John Waycaster of Cherryville inspired the group as she spoke on "Cooperating in the Work of the Lord." The main speaker was Miss Pearl Johnson, recently returned from Communist-occupied China. The new Associational missionary, Rev. John Lambert, spoke concerning our part in winning the lost for the Master. Miss Strowd announced in her report that there were 34 churches in the Association, 125 missionary organizations. The group leaders were Mrs. L. V. Grubb,

Chapel Hill; Mrs. C. W. Sharpe, Hillsboro; Mrs. J. H. Waugh, Jr., Southside, Burlington; Mrs. R. L. Huffman, Hocutt Memorial, Burlington.

At the 45th annual session of the W. M. U., of the Mt. Zion Association held at the First Baptist Church in Mebane on April 25, 1951, the delegates heard a program built around the theme, "Found Faithful." Miss Annie Strowd presided. Miss Hilda Mayo of Raleigh spoke about faithfulness to the great task of spreading God's Word, and Miss Irene Chambers, Home Missionary, talked on the timely subject, "Found Faithful." At this meeting the work of the young people was featured. Miss LaMonna Gattis, Young People's Leader, and W. R. Sinclair, Associational R. A. Leader, reported that 1,222 young people were enrolled in 95 organizations, of which three had gained the honor of A-1 rating. Chapel Hill W. M. S. received an A-1 certificate for the past year and was commended for the organization of a Missionary Round-Table Book Club. Included in Miss Strowd's report to the W. M. U. were some very encouraging statistics.

Cane Creek Church was the scene of the 46th annual session of the Mt. Zion W. M. U. on April 15, 1952, with Miss Annie Strowd presiding. The enthusiastic State Field Worker, Miss Marie Eply, and Miss Hattie Gardner, dedicated missionary to the dark land of Nigeria, were the principal speakers. Miss Gardner was a unique person with a message that thrilled her listeners. She made them see the small black faces, dulled with dirt and ignorance, beginning to reward her faith with the "shiningness" of soap and water and of the knowledge that Jesus loves them too! At this meeting Mrs. Winslow Williams of Carrboro became the Margaret Fund and Training School Chairman, and Mrs. Clyde D. Chapman of Swepsonville was welcomed as new Stewardship Chairman. Riverside and City Lake Churches reported the organization of W. M. Unions. Miss Strowd's report to the Association stated that there were 123 organizations with 2,811 members. Also the business women of Mt. Zion Association were organized into a Federation under

the leadership of Mrs. Harry Puckett, with Miss Lenna Rudd as chairman.

Graham First Church welcomed the W. M. U. for the 47th annual session on April 7, 1953, with Miss Annie Strowd, superintendent, presiding. The theme of the program for the day was based on the Woman's Hymn, "Come, Women, Wide Proclaim." Such enlightening speakers as Mrs. John Waycaster, Raleigh, and Miss Olive Lawton, missionary to Formosa, spoke. Miss Lawton gave vivid accounts of her experiences on the foreign fields as she witnessed there for the Savior. Miss Strowd reported to the women that a W. M. S. at Hico Church had been organized, and that under the encouragement of Mrs. D. C. Phillips, associate superintendent, the missionary society at McDuffie Memorial had been re-activated. Our superintendent gave the following statistics: 42 new churches, 13 new organizations, total number of organization 131.

With the passing of another year, the W. M. U. was welcomed to the Burlington First Baptist Church for its 48th annual session on April 6, 1954 with Miss Annie Strowd as superintendent. The program carried out the theme "Entrusted to Us." In her enlightening manner Miss Ruth Provence of Raleigh spoke to the women about their personal characteristics and habits being kept faithful to the high trust of Christian service. During the afternoon session the women were delighted when the enthusiastic Young People's Leader, Miss Rebecca Crawford of Chapel Hill, talked about the responsibility entrusted to us for training the youth in home and the church. Miss Sadie Shoaf from the Home Mission Board addressed the delegates on the challenging subject, "Entrusted —Empowered." In her annual report Miss Strowd stated that the total number of organizations was 133 and total membership was 2,978.

As the women gathered on April 19, 1955 for the 49th annual session of the Mt. Zion W. M. U., they were keenly aware that God had abundantly blessed their efforts that were dedicated to the spreading the gospel. The First Baptist Church

in Hillsboro welcomed them for this meeting, with Mrs. J. R. Poindexter presiding. The imperative need for workers in the fields was emphasized in the theme of the program, "Go Quickly and Tell." Rev. E. C. Wilkie, Mt. Zion Associational R. A. Leader, and Miss Rebecca Crawford, Young People's Leader, stressed the importance of telling the story of Jesus today through our youth. The main message of the morning session was brought by Miss Beverly Neilson of Raleigh as she spoke on the theme for the day, "Go Quickly and Tell." During the afternoon our inspirational speaker was Miss Elain Crotnell, missionary to the Philippine Islands. For the first time the Association appointed leaders for each youth organization, and with this plan four outstanding meetings were held during the year: (1) In November Rev. Wilkie promoted a R. A. Conclave in Chapel Hill with 300 attending; (2) An Associational Y. W. A. Tea was held in February at Hocutt Memorial Church; (3) A G. A. Coronation Service was held at Hocutt Memorial under the leadership of Mrs. J. J. Lassiter; (4) Under the direction of the Mt. Zion Associational Sunbeam leader, Mrs. A. C. Bridges, a Sunbeam Rally was conducted at Mebane First Church in April. This was the first meeting of its kind.

In August 1955 our Mission Study Chairman, Mrs. John Jeffcoat, resigned to go with her husband to Alaska to serve as our Home Missionaries.

The year 1956 brings us to our 50th anniversary. As we look back, we are made conscious of our great heritage of consecrated leaders, pioneering missionaries, willing workers and praying members. We look to the future with renewed strength knowing there is still much land to be possessed, but confident we shall be able to possess it as "laborers together with God."

VICE-PRESIDENTS

In the beginning of Woman's Missionary work Vice-Presidents were elected by the Central Committee in Raleigh, North Carolina.

These are the vice-presidents who served in this Association until the name was changed to superintendents and were elected by their own group.

Mrs. Thos. Hume, Chapel Hill	1877
Mrs. Hugh P. Markham, Durham	1897
Mrs. L. W. Battle, Durham	1898-1902
Mrs. Hight C. Moore, Chapel Hill	1902-1903
Mrs. C. M. V. Follett	1903-1904
Mrs. C. L. Haywood, Durham	1904-1921

The following have served the Association as superintendents:

Mrs. C. L. Haywood, Durham	1904-1921
Mrs. W. M. Buck, Burlington	1922-1925
Mrs. S. J. Porter 6 months in	1925
Mrs. J. M. Cheek, Durham	1925-1929
Mrs. J. L. Gates, Durham	1929-1931
Mrs. D. C. Barbee, Durham	1931-1933
Mrs. J. P. Jones, Durham	1933
Mrs. D. C. Markham, Durham	1933-1934
Mrs. Ira Knight, Durham	1934-1936
Mrs. O. L. Riggs, Durham	1936-1938
Mrs. Charles Jollay, Durham	1938-1941
Mrs. J. T. Craig, Durham	1941-1943
Mrs. Geo. Harward, Carrboro	1943-1950
Miss Annie Strowd, Chapel Hill	1950-1953
Mrs. John R. Poindexter, Burlington	1954

FOREIGN MISSIONARIES

Mrs. Lula Freeland Bryan
Mrs. Maggie Nutt Herring
Mrs. Vallie Page Greene
Robert Lawson Harris
Rev. Judson Lennon
Miss Inabelle Coleman
Rachel Thompson Humphrey
Doris Thompson McGee
Matthew Tyson Yates
Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Maddry

HOME MISSIONARIES

Miss Annie Ivey
Miss Rachel Simms
Mr. and Mrs. John O. Jeffcoat
Mrs. Taul B. White, Southwide worker for Southern W. M. U.

PRESENT OFFICERS—1956

Mrs. John R. Poindexter, Superintendent
Miss Annie Strowd, Associate Superintendent
Mrs. E. E. Hodge, Secretary-Treasurer
Miss Rebecca Crawford, Young People's Leader
Rev. E. C. Wilkie, R. A. Counsellor
Mrs. J. J. Lassiter, G. A. Counsellor
Mrs. E. G. Smith, Y. W. A. Counsellor
Mrs. A. C. Bridgers, Sunbeam Counsellor
Mrs. J. O. Jeffcoat, Mission Study Chairman
Mrs. R. E. Morris, Community Mission Chairman
Mrs. Daphne Hayes, Stewardship Chairman
Mrs. W. M. Lodge, Literature Chairman
Mrs. C. E. Maddry, Prayer Chairman
Mrs. Harry Puckett, Missionary Fundamentals Chairman
Mrs. W. T. Smith, Margaret Fund Chairman
Mrs. Cecil Johnson, Historian
Mrs. W. R. Massey, B. W. C. Advisor

JUBILEE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Geo. N. Harward, Chairman, Carrboro
Miss Bertha Cates, Burlington
Mrs. E. E. Chapman, Burlington
Mrs. E. C. Compton, Mebane
Mrs. R. H. Hutchinson, Saxapahaw
Mrs. Cecil Johnson, Chapel Hill
Mrs. Charles E. Maddry, Hillsboro
Mrs. J. J. Lassiter, Burlington
Miss Annie Strowd, Chapel Hill
Mrs. Harry Puckett, Burlington
Mrs. E. C. Wilkie, Graham
Mrs. Walter Williams, Burlington
Mrs. C. W. Sharpe, Fairview

PROGRAM

OF THE FIFTIETH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE W. M. U.

Theme: *His Commission—Our Mission*

MORNING SESSION

Prelude

Hymn ---------- The Kingdom Is Coming

Bible Meditation ---------- Mrs. John H. Vernon, Sr.
First Church, Burlington

Prayer ---------- Mrs. Winfred Overman
Glenhope, Burlington

Special Music ---------- Mrs. Boyd Brown
First Church, Burlington

Welcome ---------- Mrs. M. J. Bright
Chapel Hill

Business

His Commission—Our Mission

In the Region ---------- Mrs. A. D. Frazier, Durham
In the Association ---------- Miss Annie Strowd
In the B. W. C. ---------- Mrs. W. R. Massey

Missionary Fundamentals: Mrs. Harry Puckett, Chm.

Through Prayer ---------- Mrs. Charles Maddry
Through Study ---------- Mrs. E. C. Wilkie
Through Literature ---------- Mrs. W. M. Lodge
Through Community Missions ---------- Mrs. R. E. Morris
Through Stewardship ---------- Mrs. Daphne Hayes

Hymn ---------- Jubilee Hymn

Recognition of visitors and founders of Mt. Zion W. M. U. Association -- Mrs. Geo. N. Harward, Chm. Jubilee Comm.

Mt. Zion W. M. U. Contribution to His Commission:
Mrs. J. S. Farmer, Raleigh

Hymn ---------- Come, Women, Wide Proclaim

Message: His Commission—Our Mission -- Dr. Charles Maddry
Hillsboro

Special Music ---------- Mr. Edgar Vom Lehn
First Church, Burlington

Benediction ---------- Dr. S. T. Habel, Chapel Hill

LUNCH — 12:45 - 1:45

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AFTERNOON SESSION

Organ Prelude

Hymn ---------- O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

Bible Meditation ---------- Miss Annie Strowd

The Great Commission and Youth ----- Miss Rebecca Crawford
Boys and Missions ---------- Rev. E. C. Wilkie
Margaret Fund and Carver School --- Mrs. W. T. Smith

Business:
Committee Reports
Election of Officers
Dedicatory Prayer ---------- Mrs. Charles E. Maddry

Special Music ---------- Mrs. Herbert Watson, Carrboro

Message: His Commission—Our Mission in Gaza:
Mrs. J. T. McRae

Benediction ---------- Rev. L. A. Nall

JUBILEE PAGEANT

MT. ZION ASSOCIATIONAL W. M. U.

CARRBORO BAPTIST CHURCH

APRIL 16, 7:30 P. M.

Mrs. Geo. N. Harward, Jubilee Chairman, Presiding

Hymn ---------- "O Zion Haste"

Scripture ---------- Mrs. Geo. N. Harward

Prayer

Address ---------- Mrs. C. Gordon Maddrey

Hymn ---------- Golden Jubilee Song

Pageant ---------- "A Fruitful Vine in the House of the Lord"

Written by Mrs. J. J. Lassiter and Mrs. Cecil Johnson

Season I. Seed Time—Chapel Hill Baptist Church

Season II. The Seedling—Bethel Baptist Church

Season III. Planted with Choicest Vine

Season IV. Let Us See if the Vine Flourisheth—Burlington First

Season V. The Vine Languisheth—Mebane First

Season VI. Return O God and Visit This Vine—Hocutt Memorial

Season VII. Our Vine Have Tender Grapes—Antioch

Season VIII. A Fruitful Bough Whose Branches Run Over The Wall—Moore's Chapel

Epilogue—Carrboro Baptist Church

G. A. Queens of Mt. Zion Association

Mrs. John R. Poindexter, Associational Superintendent

Rev. E. C. Wilkie, Associational R. A. Counselor

Song ---------- "Come, Women, Wide Proclaim"

Congregation join in singing

Benediction ---------- Rev. Henry B. Stokes